



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Somers.

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Mariellen French.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Michele Kravath, 377 Tyler Avenue, would like the pool at the Mystic Education Center to remain open until the property is sold. She stated that this warm water pool is utilized by citizens through various Parks and Recreation programs. Many seniors and disabled persons are able to move better in the warm water than on land. Ms. Kravath noted that if the pool remains open it will continue to be maintained and will be in better condition when the property is eventually sold.

Joan Byer, 1 Mainsail Drive, Noank, recently had a house built in Noank. She remarked that the Town employees she dealt with during the construction process were efficient, fair, professional, knowledgeable, and courteous. She sent a letter to the Town Manager regarding her experience. Ms. Byer added that Groton is fortunate to have the staff that it does, and she looks forward to getting involved in Town.

Mariellen French, 12 Little Gull Lane, Mystic, distributed fresh eggs to the Councilors. She urged the Council to draft an ordinance to allow small, rooster-free chicken flocks. She outlined some of the environmental benefits, as well as the benefits of fresh, free-range chicken eggs. In the current economy, Ms. French believes that this ordinance would be beneficial.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Councilor Flax informed Ms. Byer that the Council did receive a copy of her letter.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2011-0244

Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of December 6, 2011 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items**2011-0228 Special Trust Fund Contributions****RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS**

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Liberty Bank/Groton Rotary - \$9,461.48 - Social Services Discretionary
Darelene Woodward - \$5.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Various Donations - \$165.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistant Program
Groton Public Library Circle of Friends - \$1,500 - Library Miscellaneous
Elinor Fillion - \$125.00 - Library Miscellaneous
Elinor Fillion in honor of John Fuhrmeister - \$90.00 - Library Miscellaneous
Robert Ashworth - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Cardinal Honda - \$305.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Mystic Lions - \$1,000.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Union Baptist Church - \$450.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Susan McMillan - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Pfizer - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Mystic Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center - \$50.00 - DARE Miscellaneous
Paul and Carla Henschel - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
J. Dempsey Associates - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Ann Parchman - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church - \$145.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Wireless Zone - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Various Donations - \$158.32 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
City of Groton - \$544.35 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Suisman, Shapiro, Wool, Brennan, Gray & Greenberg, P.C. - \$2,000.00 - Social Services Discretionary

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Mayor Somers highlighted various donations and thanked all who gave so generously.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**2011-0220 Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0226 Local Prevention Council Grant for Ledge Light Health District

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0227 Amended Resolution for Connecticut Dial-a-Ride Grant

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0229 Presentation by Children First Groton

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0230 Establishment of Town Council Committees and Regular Meeting Schedules

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0239 Flanders Road Landfill Solar Opportunity Discussion

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0241 Adoption of 2012 Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0242 Adoption of 2012 Group I Regular Meeting Schedule

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0243 Adoption of 2012 Group II Regular Meeting Schedule

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0246 Appointments to Liaison Committee with the Board of Education

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.
The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilors received emails regarding the Historic District Commission, the Board of Education Administrator's contract, the Groton salt marsh, and handicapped parking spaces in downtown Mystic.

Various Councilors attended the swearing-in of the RTM and Board of Education, a special Board of Education meeting, a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools, an Economic Development Commission meeting, a Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce meeting, and the distribution of Christmas baskets at Groton Human Services. Mayor Somers noted that 480 baskets were given out and thanked Town staff for their efforts.

2011-0249 Economic Development Commission Goals

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION GOALS

Councilor Johnson requested a referral to the Economic Development Committee to generate goals for the Economic Development Commission.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The RTM was sworn-in on December 14, 2011. The winner of the tie in District 1 was Joseph Baril. Votes were taken for RTM Moderator and Floor Leaders with the following results:

Moderator - Jean-Claude Ambroise

Republican Floor Leader - Jackie Massett

Democratic Floor Leader - Patrice Granatosky

c. Clerk of the Council

No report.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager stated that the Town is securing a different type of drainage top for the handicapped spot in front of Chelsea Groton Bank so that it won't interfere with handicapped access. Mr. Oefinger highlighted items from the Town Manager's Weekly Status Report, and noted that Doug Ackerman will be Acting Town Manager next week.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers

Councilors viewed a presentation regarding Children First Groton and another regarding Freedom of Information (FOI). Mayor Somers remarked that all Councilors will be issued a Town email address for FOI purposes. The Town Council meeting schedule has been set, and Group I and Group II will meet only once a month. Mayor Somers stated that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2011-0220 Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant

RESOLUTION ENDORSING PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR A REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE GRANT

WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-124s, as amended by Section 5 of Public Act 11-61 establishes the Regional Performance Incentive Program to fund projects or studies designed to provide cost saving services to municipalities on a regional basis, and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), of which the Town of Groton is a member, has identified three potential projects to benefit the 20 SCCOG municipalities, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council endorses the Regional Performance Incentive Program referenced in Section 5 of Public Act 11-61 (An Act Concerning Responsible Growth) and the proposals, submitted by the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), as follows:

- Preparation of a comprehensive plan and a model for shared services, equipment, and staff by all 20 SCCOG municipalities
- Creation of a digital index of town clerk maps in all 20 SCCOG municipalities
- SCCOG municipalities joining the Capitol Region Council of Governments on-line permitting system

It is hereby certified that there are no legal obstacles to providing the proposed services regionally, including, but not limited to, binding arbitration.

A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0226

Local Prevention Council Grant for Ledge Light Health District

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN A LOCAL PREVENTION COUNCIL GRANT FOR THE LEDGE LIGHT HEALTH DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Ledge Light Health District can apply for a Local Prevention Council grant in the amount of \$5,675, and

WHEREAS, grant funds will be used by the Groton Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention (GASP) Coalition for programs designed to reduce the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and drugs in the Town of Groton, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to sign the Local Prevention Council Grant Application in the amount of \$5,675 for Ledge Light Health District.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0227

Amended Resolution for Connecticut Dial-a-Ride Grant

RESOLUTION AMENDING A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT/CONTRACT FOR A GRANT FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2011, the Town Council approved resolution #2011-0045 authorizing Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to execute all necessary Agreement/Contract documents with the State Department of Transportation for the Dial-A-Ride grant, and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has requested that the authorizing resolution delete any reference to the actual grant dollars available because that number has changed since the original approval, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger was authorized on March 1, 2011 and continues to be authorized to execute all necessary Agreement/Contract documents on behalf of the Town of Groton with the Department of Transportation of the State of Connecticut and to affix the corporate seal, for the Dial-A-Ride grant for transportation services for elderly and disabled persons.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Antipas, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0230

Establishment of Town Council Committees and Regular Meeting Schedules

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND CONCURRING WITH THE MAYOR'S ASSIGNMENTS

RESOLVED, that the committees of the 28th Town Council shall be as follows:

Committee of the Whole - Chairperson Heather Somers

Group I

Personnel, Appointments, Rules and Legislation - Chairperson Bruce Flax

Finance - Chairperson Frank O'Beirne

Education/Health and Social Services - Chairperson Harry Watson

Environment/Energy - Chairperson Deborah Peruzzotti

Group II

Public Works/Recreation - Chairperson Dean Antipas
Community and Cultural Development - Chairperson Rita Schmidt
Public Safety - Chairperson James Streeter
Economic Development - Chairperson William Johnson

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0241

Adoption of 2012 Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2012 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Committee of the Whole regular meeting schedule for 2012 as follows:

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 (Special Meeting)
Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Tuesday, February 14, 2012
Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Tuesday, March 13, 2012
Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Tuesday, April 10, 2012
Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Tuesday, May 8, 2012
Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Tuesday, June 12, 2012
Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Tuesday, July 10, 2012
Tuesday, July 24, 2012

Tuesday, August 14, 2012
Tuesday, August 28, 2012

Tuesday, September 11, 2012
Tuesday, September 25, 2012

Tuesday, October 9, 2012
Tuesday, October 23, 2012

Tuesday, November 13, 2012
Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the Second and Fourth Tuesdays of each month, except in December when there is one meeting due to the Christmas holiday.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0242

Adoption of 2012 Group I Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2012 GROUP I COMMITTEES REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Group I Committees regular meeting schedule for 2012 as follows:

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 (Special Meeting)

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Tuesday, August 14, 2012

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the Second Tuesday of each month.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0243

Adoption of 2012 Group II Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2012 GROUP II COMMITTEES REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Group II Committees regular meeting schedule for 2012 as follows:

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

Tuesday, August 28, 2012

Tuesday, September 25, 2012

Tuesday, October 23, 2012

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the Fourth Tuesday of each month, except in December when there is no meeting due to the Christmas holiday.

A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0246

Appointments to Liaison Committee with the Board of Education

APPOINTMENTS TO LIAISON COMMITTEE WITH THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLVED, that Councilors Bruce Flax, Harry Watson, and Deborah Peruzzotti are hereby appointed to the Liaison Committee with the Board of Education.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Watson stated that the RTM and the City should be invited to provide members for this liaison committee. The Town Manager noted that the committee name will include these groups in the future, and he will notify the RTM Moderator and the Mayor of the City so that they can appoint representatives to this liaison committee.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules to consider Resolution Regarding Fitch High School Baseball Field Improvements"was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Watson and so voted unanimously.

2011-0247

Resolution Regarding Fitch High School Baseball Field Improvements

RESOLUTION REGARDING FITCH HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton ("Town"), the Groton Board of Education ("BOE") and the Bristol Collegiate Baseball Club, Inc., ("Club") entered into an Agreement in 2011 which, in part, addressed improvements to the Fitch High School Baseball Field; and

WHEREAS, per the Agreement, the Club is responsible for all costs associated with the improvements; and

WHEREAS, the costs of the improvements to date have exceeded the amount of money provided by the Club to the Town or BOE for the same, and/or paid directly by the Club to vendors or contractors, in the amount of \$144,012.23; and

WHEREAS, the Club has been placed on notice by the Town and BOE of the Club's obligation to

pay the outstanding amounts to said vendors or contractors per the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Club has indicated that it is contesting the obligation to pay and/or that it is unable to pay the remaining amounts; and

WHEREAS, the BOE, through its Superintendent, has proposed to utilize certain Department of Defense funds designated for the BOE to pay the outstanding amounts to said vendors and contractors pending potential legal action against the Club pursuant to the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the BOE, through its Superintendent and legal counsel have indicated that the BOE may utilize said Department of Defense funds for any purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Town is in receipt of the Department of Defense funds designated for the BOE; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to take the steps necessary to disburse said Department of Defense funds to the BOE, with the intention that those funds will be utilized, in part, to pay the outstanding amounts to said vendors and contractors pending potential legal action against the Club pursuant to the Agreement.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor O'Beirne strongly objected to the use of Department of Defense (DOD) funds for this reason, noting that the federal grant money is for educational purposes. He would, however, like the vendors to be paid.

In answer to Councilor Streeter, the Town Manager stated that when the baseball club reimburses the Town, the funds will go back into the DOD account.

Councilor Flax noted that the Board of Education attorney has stated that the DOD funds may be used for this purpose.

Mayor Somers remarked that the work was completed and vendors should be paid.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 7 - Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Watson
Opposed: 2 - Councilor O'Beirne, Jr. and Councilor Streeter

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Flax and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant